

1937 33rd Street
San Diego, California 92102
March 2, 1979

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1845 Hancock Street
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Dear David, Howard & Mike,

I'm really very sorry that it has taken so long to get a letter off to you. I promised you a report on the activities of AB-1 Day. And so here it is at long last.

A total of 14 San Diegans (8 women & 6 men) went to Sacramento to participate in the constituent lobby day for AB-1. Among the 14 were constituents from the 38th, 39th, and 40th Senatorial districts, the 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, and 80th Assembly districts. All members of the San Diego group attended meetings and workshops in the Capitol building on Sunday, January 14th, to familiarize themselves with AB-1, background information on their respective legislators, and basic lobbying techniques. California Human Rights Advocates (CHRA) provided guest speakers and workshop facilitators.

There was a great deal of thoughtful discussion and questions about AB-1 and its companion bill in the Senate. Some members of the San Diego delegation felt that printed copies of the Senate Bills (SB-3 & SB-18) should have been made available by CHRA for discussion by the lobbyists prior to meeting with the Senators, since any Senator might be unfamiliar with SB-3 and SB-18 and could conceivably ask questions that the lobbyist could not answer. Most members of the San Diego delegation also felt that more advance notice from CHRA about lobbying efforts such as AB-1 Day could have allowed for better preparation of the lobbyists and for more grassroots organizing at the local level during the weeks prior to the actual lobbying day.

On AB-1 Day (Monday, January 15th) things went very smoothly. Our group had pre-arranged appointments with legislators (or their administrative assistants) in each of the above-mentioned districts. We met in one large group and signed up for each legislator, making sure that there were at least 3 people for each appointment, and that there were no conflicts of schedule.

There were really very few surprises among the responses from San Diego area legislators. Assemblypersons were basically familiar with the content of AB-1. Most had good questions and openly expressed any fears or problems they had with passage of the bill. All were very cordial, and, I think, honest with us.

The following is a brief synopsis of what we learned from our contact with each of our legislators.

SENATORS

Bill Craven (Republican, 38th District) Very interested in the bill,

had lots of questions. Seemed to favor the concept of AB-1, but was not ready to commit himself on how he'd vote.

Bob Wilson (Democrat, 39th District) Very cordial. Needed a great deal of education (and got it!). Seemed to support AB-1 but remained non-committal.

Jim Mills (Democrat, 40th District, President Pro Tempore) Not available to meet with us. We spoke with Derek Casady (by prior arrangement) who was very supportive and felt that Senator Mills would vote for AB-1 when it got to a Senate floor vote, but assured us that the Senator would not campaign for the bill.

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

Robert Frazee (Republican, 76th District) Friendly, non-committal. Needs to be educated. Hard to tell if we had any impact on him.

Jim Ellis (Republican, 77th District) Was not able to meet with us so by prior arrangement we met with his administrative assistant who was pleasant and candid. He told us that Jim Ellis is a Baptist, morally opposed to gay rights, definitely opposed to AB-1 or similar Senate Bills. He sits on the important Industrial Relations Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. AB-1 could be killed in either one of these committees. (We need to get rid of this beast.)

Larry Kapiloff (Democrat, 78th District) Co-author of AB-1, outspoken supporter of human rights. A solid YES vote.

Pete Chacon (Democrat, 79th District) Co-author of AB-1, he was out sick with the flu and therefore did not meet with us. He is, however, a solid friend of the gay community. His district includes the Gay Center, MCC, and a high percentage of gay folks. A definite yes on AB-1.

Waddie Deddeh (Democrat, 80th District) Was very cordial and candid. Had some thoughtful questions. Kept reminding us that he voted for the consenting adults bill but that he would make up his mind on AB-1 based on the merits of the bill independent of constituent pressure.

All of the above could use letters from their respective constituents, either urging their support of AB-1, thanking them for their support, or letting them know how you feel about their stand.

More than 200 gay folks flooded into the governor's office and met with one of his aides who was definitely impressed with our ability to mobilize people from all over the state. Jerry Brown has announced his support of gay rights in his inaugural address, and I think he will sign the bill if it ever reaches his desk. But I don't think we can realistically expect him to apply any influence he might have to get it through the legislature.

All in all, I believe AB-1 Day was very productive and worth the effort it required. Whether AB-1 actually gets passed or not, I think some strides were made, and gay awareness was increased. If nothing else, some important contacts were made and a good base was established for future efforts.

Enclosed is a copy of the Community Congress position statement regarding AB-1—an important document that is unprecedented in this town and a direct result of the Gay Center's work over the years with other alternative agencies. We left a copy of it with each San Diego legislator.

Enclosed also are copies of AB-1 and the companion senate bills, plus a financial statement indicating how donated monies were used. A less-detailed report has been made to the community at large via my regular column in Pride.

One year ago, when there was a constituent lobby day for AB-1302, there was only one San Diegan (George Raya) in Sacramento to speak for our large community. This year we had the largest delegation in the state. I think that shows evidence of a great deal of work and organization on our part and we can rightly be proud. We are gradually erasing our reputation as a small-town conservative community. Your substantial assistance with this project, as well as with other community-oriented ventures since you opened WCPC, has been an important element in our community's achievements over the past year and a half. I am proud that you three are part of our city, and feel privileged to call you my friends. I hope we can work together in future projects.

Love in the struggle,

Robert "Jess" Jessop

SOURCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY COLLECTED FOR SACRAMENTO TRIP

<u>Donar</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gay Center	\$100
WCPC	100
MCC Oceanside	20
Five individuals @ \$5 each	<u>25</u>
	\$245

By mutual agreement among the 14 lobbyists, \$50 was provided to each of the four vehicles traveling to Sacramento, with the remaining extra \$45 being divided up among those who had extra expenses (such as having to fly back to San Diego) or those with the least resources of their own.

Most were not expecting any financial assistance, and were most delighted at the generosity of the sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Jessop
Project Coordinator

March 1, 1979